

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph found at Page 1, Lines 22-34 with the following paragraph:

As shown in Fig. 10, the screw extruders 92, 93 include screws 94, 95 built in housings 929, ~~[[989]]~~ 939, respectively. By rotating the screws 94, 95, the ceramic material 80 introduced into the housings 929, 939 is extruded by way of an extrusion port at the forward end thereof. The screws 94, 95 include pressure portions 41, 51 formed by spirally winding lead portions 410, 510, and kneading portions 42, 52 having a plurality of disk-shaped flange portions 420, 520, respectively, arranged in spaced relation along the axial direction. Conical forward end portions 945, 955 are arranged on the side of the kneading portions 42, 52 nearer to the forward end extrusion port.

Please replace the paragraph found at Page 2, Lines 8-14 with the following paragraph:

Specifically, the rate at which the ceramic material 80 is extruded from each screw extruder ~~[[93, 94]]~~ 92, 93 is reflected in the rate at which a ceramic molded product, such as a honeycomb structure 8, is extruded. The higher the extrusion rate of the screw extender, the more efficiently the ceramic molded product can be fabricated.

Please replace the two paragraphs found at Page 13, Lines 10-26 with the following two paragraphs:

Also, kneading portions 42, 52 having the feed rate per revolution smaller than that of the forward end of the pressure portion and the base end of the extend portion are arranged between the pressure portions 41, 51 and the extended portions 43, 53 of the screws 4, 5, respectively.

The pressure portions 41, 51 are composed of lead portions 410, 510 wound spirally in a single turn, with the distance between turns progressively decreased toward the forward extrusion port. The feed rate at the pressure portions 41, 51 can be changed by increasing the diameter of the axes 415, 515 progressively instead of adjusting the interval between the lead portions 410, 510. By employing one or both of the methods, the feed rate can be adjusted. In this embodiment, the interval between the lead portions 410, 510 is narrowed for this purpose.

Please replace the paragraph found at Page 14, Lines 8-13 with the following paragraph:

The feed rates per revolution in the upper stage screw 4 have such a relation that assuming that the feed rate of the forward end of the pressure portion 41 is 1, the feed rate of the kneading portion 42 is almost 0_{[[.]]} ; and the feed rate of the base end of the extended portion 43 is about 1.5.